

# **Board of Veterans' Affairs**

## **Agency Overview - Highlights**

**August 2015**

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*For the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee*

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### **Board of Veterans' Affairs:**

The Board of Veterans' Affairs is an independent state entity that oversees the Montana Veterans' Affairs Division (MVAD), which is administratively attached to the Department of Military Affairs (DMA). DMA has no role in providing veteran services other than to provide administrative support to the Board and MVAD.

Board members are appointed by the governor to 4-year staggered terms. Board members are limited to 2 terms.

#### **Overview:**

- 20 members (11 voting, 9 nonvoting)
- Not compensated, except for travel, meals, and lodging expenses.
- Meets at least 3 times a year.
- Hires its own staff, including an administrator who serves as the board secretary and represents the board in all communications with the governor. (See Section 2-15-1205, MCA.)

#### **Voting members:**

- 5 regional representatives, must be honorably discharged veterans;
- 1 member at large, must be honorably discharged veteran;
- 1 tribal member, who must be an honorably discharged veteran; and
- 3 members with training, education, or experience related to veterans' issues, including but not limited to health and medical care, mental health care, chemical or drug dependency, homelessness, or job training and placement.

#### **Nonvoting members:**

- 1 representative of the Office of State Director of Indian affairs;
- 1 representative from the Department of Public Health and Human Services;
- 1 representative of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;
- 1 representative of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service Office in the United States department of labor;
- 1 representative of the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee;
- 3 members, each representing a member of Montana's congressional delegation; and
- the director of the Department of Military Affairs.

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*For the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee*

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### **Montana Veterans' Affairs Division (MVAD):**

Administrator, Joseph Foster, (406) 324-3741, jofoster@mt.gov.

**Website:** <http://montanadma.org/montana-veterans-affairs>

### **MVAD's Responsibilities:**

#### **Benefit Claims Assistance**

- Operates 10 statewide service offices: Belgrade, Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Lewistown, Miles City, and Missoula.
- Prepares and file benefit claims for veterans and their families.
- Represents veterans and their families in the claims and appeals process of the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Provides regularly scheduled veterans outreach services throughout the state.
- Advises veterans and their families on veterans benefits, and assist in obtaining legal and medical documentation to support claims.
- Obtains military service records and awards.
- Coordinates assistance with other veterans service organizations and government agencies.
- Educates, advises and assists the general public and government agencies on veterans affairs and issues.

#### **State Cemetery Program**

- Administers, operates and maintains 3 State Veterans' Cemeteries: Ft. Harrison, Miles City, and Missoula
- Receives donations for State Veterans Cemeteries.
- Represents the State of Montana as a member of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

#### **Optional Duties** under section 10-2-102(1)(e), MCA):

- development and distribution of a services and benefits directory;
- regular public service announcements through various media;
- information to assist veterans and their family members in obtaining federal benefits and treatment services related to depleted uranium exposure
- an internet website with information and links relevant to veterans and their families and including information about board meetings and activities related to veterans' affairs; and
- a quarterly newsletter, which may be printed or electronically distributed by e-mail or by posting it to an appropriate website.

*For the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee*

**Programs, FTE, and Budgeted Funding - 2015 Biennium:**

*Source: Legislative Fiscal Division*

| Programs          | FTE   | General Fund | State Special | Federal Revenue | Proprietary | Total Funding | % General Fund |
|-------------------|-------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| Veteran's Affairs | 26.00 | \$2,081,615  | \$1,442,045   | \$0             | \$0         | \$3,523,686   | 59%            |

**Budget Highlights**

- Legislature approved 2 new veterans' service officer FTE
- Based on a higher level of special revenue from special license plate sales and motor vehicle registration fees earmarked for veterans services, the legislature approved a one-time-only funding switch of \$50,000 each year of the biennium, reducing the general fund appropriation and increasing the appropriation from the veterans' services special revenue account. The one-time-only designation was included in case future special revenue deposited to the veterans' special services account was insufficient to support the ongoing higher appropriations from the account.

**Statutory Advisory Councils**

- None.

**Most Recent Legislative Audits:**

- None.

**Board Bills During 2013 Session:**

- None

**Committee Areas of Interest Previous Interim:**

- Outreach to veterans who may not be members of traditional veteran organizations - panel presentations and discussion of ideas to improve outreach veterans with mental health needs.
- SAVAs composed a letter to the House Appropriations Committee recommending funding for an MVAD service office in Glasgow. The Legislature approved 2 new veterans' service officer FTE.

**Hot Topics of 2013 Session:**

- None.

**Statutorily Required Reports:**

- Biennial report.

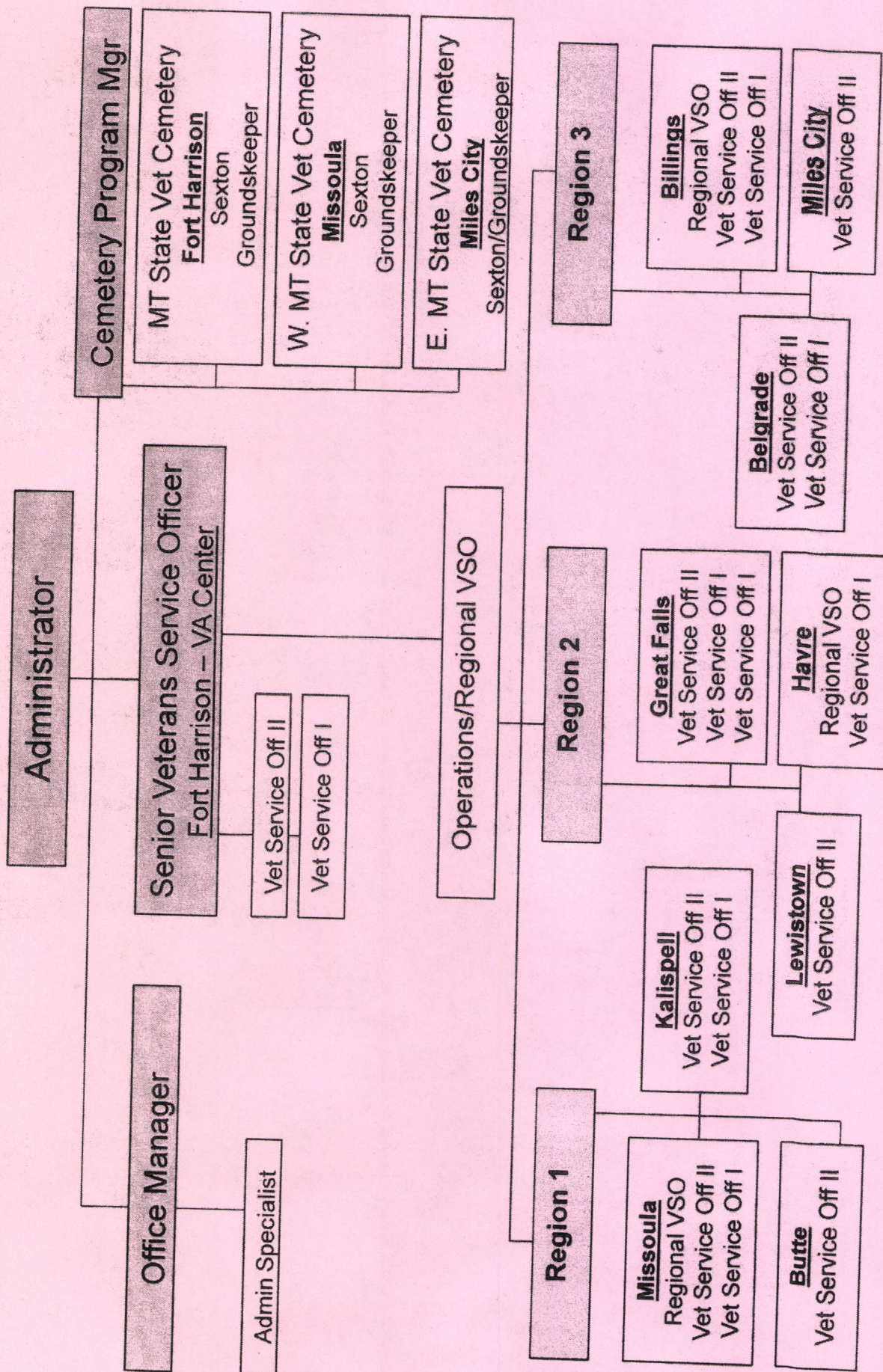
**ATTACHMENT**

MVAD Organizational Chart

MVAD Directory

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# Montana Veterans Affairs Division Organizational Chart



Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center  
1956 MT. MAJO  
PO Box 5715  
Helena, Montana 59604  
Phone - (406) 324-3740 Fax - (406) 558-2007

## Administration Offices

FOSTER, Joe - Administrator  
HALL, Lee Ann - Budget Analyst  
RYCHALSKI, June - Admin Support/Benefit Tech

Phone (406) 324-3741  
Phone (406) 324-3740  
Phone (406) 324-3743

jofoster@mt.gov  
lehall@mt.gov  
jrychalski@mt.gov

## Cemetery Offices

HALL, Tom - Cemetery Program Manager  
WIGERT, Shawn - Groundskeeper  
HOLMLUND, Kurt - Cemetery Sexton  
AASVED, Curt - Cemetery Sexton  
PAUL, Brady - Groundskeeper

Fax (406) 324-3745  
Phone (406) 324-3742  
  
Fax (406) 232-2019  
Fax (406) 543-2360  
Phone (406) 721-2995

Cell (406) 202-0530  
Cell (406) 202-1297  
Cell (406) 951-1325  
Cell (406) 396-8009

thall@mt.gov  
  
kholmund@mt.gov  
caasved@mt.gov

## Veteran Service Offices

| OFFICE LOCATION   | COUNTIES  | OFFICE LOCATION   | COUNTIES   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>BELGRADE</b><br>Mahn, Janine - Service Officer II<br>Tillis, Marcus - Service Officer I<br>350 Airport Road<br>Belgrade, MT 59714<br>Phone (406) 388-4601  | Gallatin<br>Park<br>S. Madison<br>Sweet Grass<br>Golden Valley                          | <b>KALISPELL</b><br>Keeler, Ryan - Service Officer II<br>Collins, Carolyn - Service Officer I<br>2989 Highway 93 North<br>Kalispell, MT 59901-9801<br>Phone (406) 755-3795                  | Flathead<br>Lincoln  |
| <b>BILLINGS</b><br>Heald, Cheryl - Regional VSO<br>Gaffri, Jay - Service Officer I<br>Bushnell, Stena - Service Officer II<br>2795 Enterprise Ave.<br>Billings, MT 59102<br>Phone (406) 656-0584<br>Phone (406) 248-8579<br>Phone (406) 259-5419  | Big Horn<br>Carbon<br>Stillwater<br>Treasure<br>Yellowstone<br>Mussellshell<br>Garfield | <b>LEWISTOWN</b><br>Foster, Sue - Service Officer II<br>505 W. Main, Ste. 217<br>Lewistown, MT 59457<br>Phone (406) 538-3174  | Golden Valley<br>Meagher<br>Wheatland<br>Fergus<br>Judith Basin<br>Petroleum   |
| <b>BUTTE</b><br>Williamson, David - Service Officer II<br>600 Gilman Avenue<br>Butte, MT 59701<br>Phone (406) 533-0910  | Beaverhead<br>Deer Lodge<br>Granite<br>Jefferson<br>N. Madison<br>Powell<br>Silverbow   | <b>MILES CITY</b><br>Olson, Keith - Service Officer II<br>VA Primary Care Clinic<br>210 S Winchester<br>Miles City, MT 59301<br>Phone (406) 232-1203  | Carter<br>Custer<br>Dawson<br>Fallon<br>Powder<br>Prairie<br>Wibaux<br>McCone<br>Richland<br>Sheridan<br>Daniels<br>Roosevelt<br>Rosebud |
| <b>GREAT FALLS</b><br>Arnold, Dan - Service Officer II<br>Brunken, Kari - Service Officer I<br>Hering, Candice - Service Officer I<br>600 Central Plaza #300<br>Great Falls, MT 59401<br>Phone (406) 452-2265   | Cascade<br>Chouteau<br>Pondera<br>Teton   | <b>MISSOULA</b><br>Blanche, Roxanne - Regional VSO<br>Malcom, Sean - Service Officer I<br>Hahn, Kate - Service Officer I<br>1911 Tower Street<br>Missoula, MT 59804<br>Phone (406) 542-2501 | Lake<br>Mineral<br>Missoula<br>Ravalli<br>Sanders  |
| <b>HAVRE</b><br>Loendorf, Judy - Regional VSO<br>Mulonet, Steve - Service Officer I<br>232 1st St. W.<br>Havre, MT 59501<br>Toll Free 1-877-265-VETS (8387)<br>Phone (406) 265-4225   | Liberty<br>Blaine<br>Glacier<br>Hill<br>Phillips<br>Toole<br>Valley                     | <b>MISSOULA</b><br>Blanche, Roxanne - Regional VSO<br>Malcom, Sean - Service Officer I<br>Hahn, Kate - Service Officer I<br>1911 Tower Street<br>Missoula, MT 59804<br>Phone (406) 542-2501 | Lake<br>Mineral<br>Missoula<br>Ravalli<br>Sanders  |
| <b>HELENA</b><br>Ackerman, Kelly - Senior VSO<br>Morrison-Franklin, Betty - VSO II<br>Ingraham, Tim, VSO I<br>Davis, Darlene, Admin. Asst.<br>Veterans Service Center<br>Building 3633 Veterans Drive, Rm 110E<br>PO Box 1007, Ft. Harrison, MT 59636<br>Phone (406) 495-2080<br>Phone (406) 495-2082<br>Phone (406) 495-2081<br>Phone (406) 495-2083 | Lewis & Clark<br>Broadwater<br>Jefferson  | <b>MISSOULA</b><br>Blanche, Roxanne - Regional VSO<br>Malcom, Sean - Service Officer I<br>Hahn, Kate - Service Officer I<br>1911 Tower Street<br>Missoula, MT 59804<br>Phone (406) 542-2501 | Lake<br>Mineral<br>Missoula<br>Ravalli<br>Sanders  |

## Federal VA Veterans Services Facilities

### Outpatient & Community Based Outpatient Clinics:

#### **Anaconda**

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
118 East 7th Street, Suite 2A  
Anaconda, MT 59711  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-496-3000

#### **Billings**

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
1775 Spring Creek Lane  
Billings, MT 59102  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-373-3500

Other services, including mental health,  
OEF/OIF and the DAV Transportation Network:  
2345 King Avenue West  
Billings, MT 59102  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-373-3500

#### **Bozeman**

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
300 North Willson, Suite 703G  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-582-5300

#### **Cut Bank**

VA Primary Care Clinic  
#8 Second Avenue SE  
Cut Bank, MT 59427  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-873-9047

#### **Glasgow**

VA Primary Care Clinic  
630 Second Avenue South, Suite A  
Glasgow, MT 59230  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-228-4104

#### **Glendive**

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
2000 Montana Avenue  
Glendive, MT 59330  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-377-4755

#### **Great Falls**

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
1417 9th Street South  
Suite 200 or 300  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-791-3200

#### **Hamilton**

VA Primary Care Telehealth Outreach Clinic  
299 Fairgrounds Road, Suite A  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-363-3352

### Outpatient & Community Based Outpatient Clinics:

#### **Havre**

VA Community Based Outreach Clinic  
130 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1  
Havre, MT 59501  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-265-4304

#### **Helena**

VA Medical Center and Outpatient Clinic  
3687 Veterans Drive  
Ft. Harrison, MT 59636-1500  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-442-6410

#### **Kalispell**

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
Three Mile Professional Building  
31 Three Mile Drive, Suite 102  
Kalispell, MT 59903  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-758-2700

#### **Lewistown**

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
629 NE Main Street, Suite 1  
Lewistown, MT 59457  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-535-4790

#### **Libby**

VA Rural Health Clinic  
211 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Libby, MT 59923  
Clinic: 406-293-8711

#### **Miles City**

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic and  
Community Living Center  
210 S. Winchester  
Miles City, MT 59301  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-874-5675  
Main Phone: 406-874-5600

#### **Missoula**

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
2687 Palmer Street, Suite C  
Missoula, MT 59808  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-493-3700

#### **Plentywood**

Primary Care Telehealth Outreach Clinic  
Sheridan Memorial Hospital  
440 West Laurel Avenue  
Plentywood, MT 59254  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-765-3718

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**Toll Free to any Federal VA Service:**  
VA Montana: 1-877-4MT VETS  
(1-877-468-8387)

#### **Fort Harrison Regional Office**

3633 Veterans Drive  
Ft. Harrison, MT 59636  
1-800-827-1000

#### **VA Montana Health Care System**

**VA Medical Center and Outpatient Clinic**  
3687 Veterans Drive  
P.O. Box 1500  
Ft. Harrison, MT 59636-1500  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
Clinic: 406-442-6410

### Montana Vet Centers:

#### **Billings Vet Center**

2795 Enterprise Avenue, Suite 1  
Billings MT 59102  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
406-657-6071

#### **Great Falls Vet Center**

615 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave North  
Great Falls, MT 59401  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
406-452-9048

#### **Kalispell Vet Center**

690 North Meridian, Suite 101  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
Toll Free: 1-877-468-8387  
406-257-7308

#### **Missoula Vet Center**

500 N. Higgins Avenue, Suite 202  
Missoula, MT 59802  
406-721-4918

### Montana State Veterans Nursing Homes:

Montana Veterans' Home  
400 Veterans Drive  
P.O. Box 250  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912  
406-892-3256

Eastern Montana Veterans' Home  
2000 Montana Ave  
Glendive, MT 59330  
Toll Free: 1-866-887-3664  
406-345-8855